



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Waterways Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday September 7, 2016**  
**Scituate Maritime Center**  
**7:15 pm**

**Present:** Brian Cronin, Michael Gibbons, Fran McMillen, Keith Walo, Michael Lorusso, Stephen Mone, David Glancy, David Friedman, Brian Kelly

The Meeting was called to order at 7:17pm by Brian Cronin.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

**Move that the Waterways Commission approve the agenda for September 7, 2016 meeting.**  
**Motion by Brian Cronin Second by David Friedman Unanimous Vote (9-0)**

**New Business:**

- A. Mooring Regulation Changes- feedback from B.O.S. Board thought more changes could be made. Harbormaster, Stephen Mone, met with the Town Administrator, Patricia Vinchesi. They wanted clearer verbiage. T.A. thought it would be best to take a step back and look at all regulations. She wanted a town with similar population/scenario to look at the regulations. A third party/consultant would be the best idea according to the Town Administrator. Moorings will not be assigned until this document is complete. The Commission has mixed feelings about hiring a third party that isn't familiar with Scituate Harbor. The Harbormaster said there are uninspected moorings which currently can't be used for transients; we do not rent moorings at this time. Currently the town follows the rules which are in place at this time. The Town Administrator has put a hold on assigning moorings at this time. The Commission says by March, an updated document should be in place. Stephen Mone said that the current document is convoluted and needs to be fixed. Phyllis Karlberg is wondering if the working group would be involved in the updating of the document. Shawn Harris (Selectman) said that he will advocate to the T.A. that it might be a good idea to have people from the working group involved as well as the Commission. David Donahue (Cushing Landing) said that it would be a good idea to talk to the Mass Marine Trades because they have a lot of knowledge and experience. Kathy Donahue (Cushing Landing) also said that it would be very important for the Commission to have an input. Chuck Pollard (Crescent Ave) questioned why the moorings can't be assigned at this time. He thinks we should comply with the existing regulations. Stephen Mone (Harbormaster) said that he can't assign moorings because Town Administrator has said to

stop assigning until new document is done. Chuck Pollard said that the town should be obligated to comply. Dick Eckhouse (Meeting House Ln.) said that people (currently on wait list or new people applying) should be notified that the rules are going to be changing. Lynne Maloney (Inner Harbor Rd.) has a mooring and commented that there are prime moorings currently unassigned. Ed Leary (Front St.) asked if the Harbormaster or Town Administrator has plans to rent moorings in the future. Jim Spelman (Border St.) questioned about people coming in from out of town, asks if that is considered renting. Brian Cronin said that the people that come into town rent a service, a launch service. They tried to change the verbiage in the past. Stephen Mone said that right now if someone from out of town comes in for a mooring, they are redirected to one of the three launch services. Brian Cronin thinks that the Board of Selectman needs to hear from the Commission as well as the public that there's interest in this mooring regulation topic. Keith Walo said that the Commission sent information to the Board of Selectman and changes were sent back that the Town Administrator wants to be involved in the mooring regulation changes. Shawn Harris agrees that the idea of having a third party would be a good idea. Keith Walo has concerns because now mooring assignments are on hold since the T.A. has stepped in. Kathy Donahue questioned whether every abandoned mooring has a ball on it. She asked what an abandoned mooring means. Kathy said they can be a hazard because other boats are getting stuck on them. Stephen Mone said they need to be reassigned. He is in the process of ordering bands for the moorings which will distinguish which mooring is paid for or abandoned. Bill Fairbanks (Neal Gate St.) said that there should be an urgency to this. A down payment usually needs to be paid ahead. He said that most people will have already paid a deposit for somewhere else, which will not help the people on the top of the list if they've already paid somewhere else. David Dauphinee said that it does say once the person has submitted to forgo their mooring, they have two weeks to remove the tackle. Stephen Mone clarified by saying that once a new owner is assigned, and the new owner doesn't want the existing tackle, then the old owner has two weeks to remove.

- B. Mooring Re-grid and re-numbering. Stephen Mone said that this year and last, there were boats hitting each other. He thinks it's a very good idea to regrid to maximize the moorings and mooring space. He's talked to other harbors that have done this. CLE presented, some years ago, a proposed plan of what it might look like. It never went through in the past. Commission would like a cost. Stephen said CLE would be a good idea to come in and present. Lynne Maloney disagrees that this is necessary when there are abandoned moorings currently which the town is losing revenue on. She thinks that would be more important to deal with at this time. Keith Walo thinks renumbering would be a good idea from a safety point of view. If there were a medical emergency for example, it would be much easier to have the moorings in line. Someone suggested GPS with mooring numbers. Michael Gibbons said that they looked into putting back together equipment that they once had (GIS system) but it didn't make sense because it wouldn't sync with other areas, such as billing. It wasn't compatible with Quick Books. It wouldn't have been cost effective at that time. Don Hourihan said that when CLE came in before that they were putting moorings too close together. (Hingham) said that he's on our mooring list, but currently in Hingham. He said they did renumber and said it was helpful for emergency situations. Stephen Mone

reminded people that it was just something that is being looked into, no specific information can be provided in regards to timing or cost. Brian Cronin would like to know more information about regriding. Stephen Mone would just like to bring in a consultant to talk to the Commission. Brian would like at least two consultants. Stephen will work on this. Renumbering is something that the Harbormasters office would be able to do on their own.

- C. Harbor Plan Update: There is a working group to look at this. They are investigating what the process is to update this document. They are going to talk to the Town Administrator in providing direction. It does need to be updated. Kathy Donahue questioned a \$125 fee and asked what does it go towards and does everyone get charged for this. It was supposed to be a fee spread out to everyone in the harbor. It's a "waterways user fee" according to Harbormaster. It's separate from the mooring fee. This user fee goes towards dredging, seawall in front of Harbormasters office, etc. It maintains the waterway. Scituate Harbor has about 700 moorings. This money goes into a retained earnings (Enterprise Fund). Kathy Donahue requested if we could get a monthly financial printout from the Harbormasters office. David Friedman said he would reach out to Nancy Holt about finances (summary data/detail data) for the waterways over the last two years or so.
- D. South River Dredging- permit update. Nancy Durfee (Conservation Committee) updated the Commission. They want to take and use the material from the dredging on Humarock Beach. There wasn't enough money to do the work. The Conservation Committee had to decide where to put the sand in advance. Humarock is the first choice. They want to keep the sand in the community. Humarock and 4<sup>th</sup> Cliff are the best choices. If they can't get easements from the private property owners, then the permitting agencies will not let them take a public project onto private property. Survey says that there could be 90% agreement on Central Ave. and Cliff Rd. that would be willing to sign. The Conservation Committee now has a draft easement. They are trying to multi task and be easy to understand. Next step is to go back with final easement to go onto state agency. While they are doing this, a consultant did a survey. There's an amendment to do inlet and improvement dredging. The inlet (North and South River) does not need to be dredged, but markers need to be moved. They will now move onto survey inside the South River. The sand in the river has been tested to see if it will match the beach sand. Funding was brought to Jim Cantwell with a proposal. Don Hourihan said people may have to give up private beach front according to easement, better off to put the sand on 4<sup>th</sup> Cliff. Fall 2017 is when the permitting is hoping to project. Dredging is usually done in the fall anyway. They will prioritize where it needs it the most but get a permit for the length of the South River. The beach nourishment will help these private homes, however, if the private residences do not sign the easement, then Fourth Cliff is the backup.
- E. Board Organization:
  - Chairperson nominations
  - Fran McMillan first by Brian Cronin Second Michael Gibbons (4)
  - Michael Lorusso second by Dave Friedman (1)
  - Keith Walo second by David Glancy (3)
  - Stephen Mone abstained from vote

Vice Chair for time being will be Brian Cronin

Next meeting is Oct. 5, 2016

**Adjournment**

There being no other business a motion was made by Fran McMillen to adjourn at 9:13pm second by Brian Cronin Unanimous Vote (9-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Rodgers  
Recorder